Loan for Agriculture Sector

†271. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently decided to enhance the amount of loan provided for agriculture to the farmers by financial institutions to give relief to them;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the total amount of loan fixed by Government for agriculture sector; and

(c) whether Government have made any assessment of loan amount required for the agriculture sector and if so, the details of that amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) the announcement on agriculture credit made by the Government on 18th June, 2004 envisages doubling the flow of agriculture credit in three years and relief to farmers in distress and in arrears. In order to achieve a 30% increase over the estimated flow of credit in the previous year, the total ground level credit flow to agriculture from all lending institutions for the year 2004-05 has been projected at around Rs. 1,04,500 crore as indicated below:

Commercial Banks	–	Rs. 57,000 crore.
Regional Rural Banks	–	Rs.8,500 crore
Cooperative Banks	–	Rs. 39,000 crore

(c) As per the Tenth Five Year projections, total credit disbursement during the Plan is estimated at Rs. 7,36,750 crore.

Revenue Deficit

†272. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have set a target to completely do away with the revenue deficit in the budget by the year, 2008;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(c) the target fixed for each of the coming years to reduce the deficit to achieve this target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Under Section 4 of the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2003, Central Government has been mandated to take appropriate measures to reduce the fiscal deficit and revenue deficit so as to eliminate revenue deficit by the 31st March, 2008. Under clause 110 of the Finance (No. 2), Bill, 2004, the year 2008 is sought to be changed to 2009.

(c) In the Budget Estimates 2004-05, the revenue deficit has been pegged at 2.5% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). This is targeted to be reduced to 1.8% of GDP in 2005-06 and 1.1% of GDP in 2006-07.

Recovery of Taxes

273. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 684 given in the Rajya Sabha on 26th November, 2002 and state:

(a) the total amount recoverable on account of Corporate Tax, Customs Duty, Income Tax and Central Excise Duty as on 31st March, 2001, 31st March, 2002, 31st March, 2003 and 31st March, 2004 (Provisional);

(b) whether any special effort is being taken to arrest the increasing trend of outstanding unrecovered taxes on above account, seen during the last few years;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (d) the information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Cooperative Banks without Licence

274. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as many as 419 Co-operative Banks in